

Attorney Docket No. 103864.133 US3
Serial No. 10/777,114

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-54 (Canceled)

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): A bottle ~~storage apparatus~~ transfer system, comprising:

a plurality of storage locations, each storage location having a top side and a bottom side;

a stoppage mechanism disposed on the bottom side of each of the plurality of tubes, the stoppage mechanism having an open position and a closed position;

a first ~~gantry~~ transport mechanism ~~having a means for~~ obtaining a bottle and feeding the bottle to one of the plurality of storage locations via the top side thereof, wherein the bottle is held by the one of the plurality of tubes when the stoppage mechanism is in the closed position;

a second ~~gantry~~ transport mechanism ~~having a means for~~ moving the stoppage mechanism from the closed position to the open position; and

a computer system coupled to the first and second ~~gantry~~ transport mechanisms and capable of identifying a storage location, wherein the computer system is configured to instruct the first ~~gantry~~ transport mechanism to ~~pick up one or more bottles belonging to an order and to feed~~ transfer the one or more bottles corresponding to a patient specific order to one or more of the plurality of storage locations, wherein the computer system is further configured to instruct the second ~~gantry~~ transport mechanism to control the stoppage mechanism of the one or more of the plurality of storage locations from the closed position to the open position when ~~all of the one or more bottles belonging~~ corresponding to the patient specific order has been fed transferred to the one or more of the plurality

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of storage locations and are ready for dispensing with other components of the patient specific order, including at least one of another bottle, a package and patient specific literature corresponding to the patient specific order.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The ~~device~~ bottle transfer system of claim 55, wherein the plurality of tubes form a table and wherein the first ~~gantry~~ transport mechanism is disposed on a top side of the table and the second ~~gantry~~ transport mechanism is disposed on a bottom side of the table.

Claim 57 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 55, further comprising an order consolidation station configured to:

at least one of: receive the one or more bottles containing a number of pills individually counted and receive from a second system at least one package containing prepackaged pharmaceutical products as determined by the patient specific order;

at least one identifier detector to detect identification information associated with the at least one bottle, and to detect at least another identification information associated with the at least one package, and

wherein the computer system is configured to coordinate the placing of the at least one bottle and the at least one package in a container when the at least one identification information associated with the bottle and the at least another identification information associated with the at least one container correspond to the at least one prescription order.

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Claim 58 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 55, further comprising an order consolidation station configured to print at least one customized literature pack for the at least one patient specific order comprising patient specific information; and insert automatically the at least one literature pack into the container.

Claim 59 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 57, further comprising:

a package storage device having an array of locations and configured to store the at least one package into one of the array of locations; and

a package dispenser configured to identify the one of the array of locations, obtain the at least one package from the one of the array of locations and provide the at least one package to the second system.

Claim 60 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 57, further comprising a package label printer to print at least one label for the at least one package, wherein the label is printed with patient specific information.

Claim 61 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 60, wherein the package dispenser further includes a labeler to affix a label on the at least one package.

Claim 62 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 60, wherein the package dispenser further includes an error detection system configured to detect the label affixed on the at least one package and reject the at least one package if an error is detected.

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Claim 63 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 55, further comprising a metal detector configured to detect a metallic substance in the at least one bottle, wherein the bottle is transported to a quality assurance area if a metallic substance is detected.

Claim 64 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 55, further comprising a bottle dispenser comprises a bottle buffer configured to receive the at least one bottle belonging to the one of at least one prescription order, wherein the bottle buffer is disposed and configured to release the received at least one bottle.

Claim 65 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 57, further comprising a packager configured to open the container to receive the at least one bottle and at least one package.

Claim 66 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 65, wherein the packager comprises: a printer configured to print an address or internal control information, and affix the address or the internal control information on the container.

Claim 67 (New): A bottle transfer system, comprising:

a plurality of storage locations, the plurality of storage locations storing a bottle corresponding to a patient specific prescription order, said plurality of storage locations including a stoppage mechanism having an open position and a closed position;

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a first transport mechanism obtaining the bottle and transferring the bottle to one of the plurality of storage locations, wherein the bottle is held by the one of the plurality of storage locations when the stoppage mechanism is in the closed position;

a second transport mechanism responsively connectable to the stoppage mechanism to transition the stoppage mechanism from the closed position to the open position; and

a computer system coupled to the first and second transport mechanisms and capable of identifying a storage location, wherein the computer system is configured to instruct the first transport mechanism to transfer the one or more bottles corresponding to a patient specific order to one or more of the plurality of storage locations, wherein the computer system is further configured to instruct the second transport mechanism to control the stoppage mechanism of the one or more of the plurality of storage locations from the closed position to the open position when the one or more bottles corresponding to the patient specific order has been transferred to the one or more of the plurality of storage locations and are ready for dispensing with other components of the patient specific order including at least one of another bottle, a package and patient specific literature corresponding to the patient specific order.

Claim 68 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 67, wherein the plurality of storage locations form a table and wherein the first transport mechanism is disposed on a top side of the table and the second transport mechanism is disposed on a bottom side of the table.

Claim 69 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 67, further comprising an order consolidation station configured to:

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at least one of: receive the one or more bottles containing a number of pills individually counted and receive from a second system at least one package containing prepackaged pharmaceutical products as determined by the patient specific order;

at least one identifier detector to detect identification information associated with the at least one bottle, and to detect at least another identification information associated with the at least one package, and

wherein the computer system is configured to coordinate the placing of the at least one bottle and the at least one package in a container when the at least one identification information associated with the bottle and the at least another identification information associated with the at least one container correspond to the at least one prescription order.

Claim 70 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 67, further comprising an order consolidation station configured to print at least one customized literature pack for the at least one patient specific order comprising patient specific information; and insert automatically the at least one literature pack into the container.

Claim 71 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 69, further comprising:

a package storage device having an array of locations and configured to store the at least one package into one of the array of locations; and

a package dispenser configured to identify the one of the array of locations, obtain the at least one package from the one of the array of locations and provide the at least one package to the second system.

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Claim 72 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 69, further comprising a package label printer to print at least one label for the at least one package, wherein the label is printed with patient specific information.

Claim 73 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 72, wherein the package dispenser further includes a labeler to affix a label on the at least one package.

Claim 74 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 72, wherein the package dispenser further includes an error detection system configured to detect the label affixed on the at least one package and reject the at least one package if an error is detected.

Claim 75 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 67, further comprising a metal detector configured to detect a metallic substance in the at least one bottle, wherein the bottle is transported to a quality assurance area if a metallic substance is detected.

Claim 76 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 67, further comprising a bottle dispenser comprises a bottle buffer configured to receive the at least one bottle belonging to the one of at least one prescription order, wherein the bottle buffer is disposed and configured to release the received at least one bottle.

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Claim 77 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 69, further comprising a packager configured to open the container to receive the at least one bottle and at least one package.

Claim 78 (New): The bottle transfer system of claim 77, wherein the packager comprises: a printer configured to print an address or internal control information, and affix the address or the internal control information on the container.

Claim 79 (New): A bottle transfer system, comprising:

storage locations means for storing a bottle corresponding to a patient specific prescription order and including a stoppage mechanism having an open position and a closed position;

a first transport mechanism obtaining the bottle and transferring the bottle to one of the plurality of storage locations, wherein the bottle is held by the one of the plurality of storage locations when the stoppage mechanism is in the closed position;

a second transport mechanism responsively connectable to the stoppage mechanism to transition the stoppage mechanism from the closed position to the open position; and

computer system means coupled to the first and second transport mechanisms and capable of identifying a storage location, wherein the computer system means for instructing the first transport mechanism to transfer the one or more bottles corresponding to a patient specific order to the storage location means, wherein the computer system means for instructing the second transport mechanism to control the stoppage mechanism of the storage location means from the closed position to the open position when the one or more bottles corresponding to the patient specific order has been transferred to the storage location means and are ready for dispensing with other components of the patient

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specific order including at least one of another bottle, a package and patient specific literature corresponding to the patient specific order.